

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Army Training	DATE DISTR.	26 March 1953
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	25X4A
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	[REDACTED]
	25X1A	REFERENCES	[REDACTED]

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

1. The 2 Mtz Bn periodically received a 14-day training schedule from regimental headquarters which had to be adhered to very strictly. The training period consisted of a designated number of hours of work or training in the following subjects: drill tactics, physical training, firing, map reading, political lectures, first aid, etc. For example, a 14-day training schedule received from regimental headquarters could have the following subjects to be covered. Each period would vary according to the season or the time of the year.

Physical training	20 hours
Infantry tactics	50 hours
Political lectures	10 hours
Firing	16 hours
All others, such as barrack duties, signal, engineer and chemical training, care of weapons, etc.	50 hours

The period of training took up 146 hours for the 14 days.

2. The following sample daily training schedule was prepared by the Bn CO in order to fulfill the training requirements as listed above:

0500 Physical training, barrack duties, breakfast
0630 Preparation for training, inspection by NCO's

SECRET

25X1A

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

-2-

- 0730 Inspection by officers
- 0800 Six hours of training consisting of infantry tactics, firing of weapons, political training, topography, physical training, hand to hand combat, engineer and chemical training, and such other subjects as were indicated on the training schedule.
- 1400 Free time and lunch
- 1600 Continuation of instruction in subjects covered in the 0800 to 1400 period.
- 1800 Free time and supper
- 2000 Political indoctrination, cleaning of weapons, and make-up time (for soldiers who lagged behind the unit's average in performance).
- 2300 Taps

3. Every Saturday the 2. Mtz Bn participated in a 20-km. hike, each man carrying a full pack. The men marched the first 10 km. at normal march time, the next five with gas masks donned and the last five at double time. Limited duty personnel were excused from the hike. A progress chart was kept at battalion headquarters, crediting each officer and soldier with the proper number of hours spent in training. Any lost time by reason of illness or otherwise had to be made up. From a battalion commander's point of view [REDACTED] the average soldier in the Czech Army was not ready for combat. There were too many subjects taught the average soldier, thus interfering greatly with any specialized training that he should have been receiving.

Alert Training

4. Alert training, designated by code number 0404, was held at least two or three times a month by the 38th Mecz Regt. Usually it took place shortly after midnight, on a Saturday, and just prior to the hike. A company, including all personnel and equipment, had to be ready to move out in a half hour; a battalion in one hour and a regiment in two hours. All units had a classified designated assembly alert area assigned to them. The assembly area was generally 10 to 15 km. from the casernes. Within half an hour after an alert was sounded each company commander of my battalion had to present to [REDACTED] a list of officers and EM, rolling stock, and equipment that were ready to move. In turn, the battalion commander had to present a similar consolidated list to the regimental commander within two hours. Moves to alert areas combined large scale motor moves and command post exercises. I believe that if an actual alert were sounded there would be no troops in any of the casernes in all of Czechoslovakia within two hours.

Night Training

5. At least 30 per cent of the training had to be done at night. Generally the same schedule was followed at night as in the day. Complete black-out precautions were very strictly observed and any individual flashing lights or smoking cigarettes was penalized.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

NCO Training

6. The 38th Regt had an NCO School especially for the purpose of training soldiers for a military career. NCO's were selected on the basis of personal appearance, military bearing and knowledge, political reliability and familiarity with current events and army organizations. The course commenced in October, ended the following September and was more thorough than the routine training schedule.

Weapons Training

7. There were instructions in the field stripping and firing of all weapons [REDACTED] fired the SMG three times, the 7.92 LMG, the HMG, the 82-mm mortar and the 57-mm AT gun once, and the rifle many times.

Communications and Chemical Training

8. During communications training [REDACTED] how to turn the radio set on and off and the most important parts of the radio. Chemical training included decontamination instruction. [REDACTED] There was some engineer training conducted, eg construction of bunkers.

Maneuvers

9. Maneuvers for the 5th Mecz Div and attached units commenced each year in May and lasted until September. Maneuvers for infantry units usually lasted three months. The 5th Mecz Div and all of its attached units started the maneuvers on 14 May, in the vicinity of Plukuv Dvur (Kynzvalt) /4854N-1342E/. Three trains, with approximately 32 cars each, were used in moving the 38th Mecz Regt to the maneuver area.

[REDACTED] The 2d Mtz Bn, along with an /u/1/ artillery unit, started to load its equipment and men at 1100 on 14 May 52. All equipment and men were loaded and ready to move by 1400 of the same day. The 2d Mtz Bn departed at 1430 and arrived in the vicinity of Marianske Lazne /4958N-1242E/ at 0500 on 15 May. The 2d Mtz Bn then unloaded its equipment and men and continued by truck to Plukuv Dvur, approximately 15 km from Marianske Lazne. Security during transit was provided by troops of the 2d Mtz Bn who guarded the equipment.

10. The maneuvers consisted of offensive and defensive tactics, the encirclement of the hypothetical enemy, breakthrough and other problems. During one of the above named situations a Soviet Colonel (fnu) Shostakov, who was attached to the division as an adviser, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] leader of the attack. All co officers had notebooks in their possession which contained a sketch of the plan of attack and the number of men that were to be employed. After the problem was completed all of them had to show the Soviet colonel how many men they had employed, how many weapons had been utilized, where the positions were, how well they had dug in, as well as the terrain features surrounding their positions and the number of officers who participated in the attack.

11. Many night problems were held. In all problems heavier emphasis was placed on offense than on defense. [REDACTED] prepare some problems, eg an attack on a forest, on a river crossing, on fortifications, and on various other types of positions. During the course of the problems firing was done from the company to the regimental level, conducted on moving targets, such as wooden tanks; all units fired simultaneously.

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

-4-

After the firing was completed officers would advance to see the results. Small arms ammunition was used sparingly; therefore I am of the opinion that a shortage of ammunition existed. There was, however, sufficient tank and artillery ammunition. The scheme of maneuvers came from the 5th Mecz Div, which instructed regimental commanders, who in turn gave specific instructions to the battalion commanders, etc.

Political Training

12. All political training had phases which were directed against the United States. A resume of the Korean news was generally given during the political lectures, and it emphasized the charge that Americans resorted to germ and chemical warfare. As result, gas masks were included in all training. In December 1951 and in February 1952 a gas alert was called by the 38th Mecz Regt. During the alert all personnel had to wear gas masks for a period of one hour. Political lectures also stressed the fact that the enemy was not to be readily overcome by force of arms and thus all personnel were cautioned not to underestimate its strength. All news, entertainment, literature and conversation was controlled and colored according the the then current Soviet party line. 25X1X
13. Tito was discussed as much as was Korea. In lectures out 1951 American military missions operated in Yugoslavia, and that the US furnished Tito with all war materiel, including modern aircraft. Czechs believed Tito to be quite ingenious in that he was gaining at someone else's expense. 25X1X
14. In February 1952, during one of the political lectures, it was requested that each officer donate at least 50 crowns and each soldier 10 crowns to the Korean cause. It was supposedly a voluntary contribution, but a 100 per cent goal was desired and was attained.

SECRET